

VZCZCXYZ0002
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHVJ #0438 0541529
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 231529Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5524
INFO RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU PRIORITY 0021
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA PRIORITY 0073
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK PRIORITY 0012
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA PRIORITY 0098
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0031

UNCLAS SARAJEVO 000438

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

IO/RHS OSTERMEIER; DRL/MLGA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [UNHRC](#)

SUBJECT: BOSNIA WILL PURSUE UNHRC CANDIDACY

REF: A. SARAJEVO 210

[1](#)B. STATE 10605

[1](#)1. Following leadership changes in the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the DCM delivered REF. A demarche to incoming BiH Deputy Foreign Minister Ana Trisic-Babic on February 21. Embassy had demarched the previous Deputy Foreign Minister Anton Rill on January 29 (REF. B). Trisic-Babic said Bosnia would put itself forward as a candidate for the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). She thanked the U.S. for its support of Bosnia's efforts to take a more active role in UN organizations. Trisic-Babic noted that Bosnia needed to promote a new, positive image to the world, and to demonstrate the significant progress that had been made in the past 11 years. Embassy subsequently provided her office with additional information from the UNHRC website via email.

BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON NEW BiH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

[1](#)2. Prior to becoming BiH Deputy Foreign Minister, Ms. Ana TRISIC-BABIC ("TREE-shich BAH-bich") was the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs Assistant Minister for Bilateral Relations from 2001-2007. She previously worked for Radio Free Europe, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) and the OHR Political Department in Banja Luka. (NOTE: Trisic-Babic's full resume is posted on the BiH MFA website at: http://mvp.gov.ba/index_eng.htm. END NOTE.) Trisic-Babic is a former U.S. International Visitor Program participant, and spoke fondly of her travels in the U.S. and previous contacts with State Department officials. Acknowledging that ethnic balance requirements had been a factor in her selection as Deputy FM, Trisic-Babic (a Bosnian Serb) said she personally did not think in those terms and was uncomfortable when required, apparently for the first time, to officially declare her ethnicity during the appointment process. Trisic-Babic speaks fluent English. She was born in Banja Luka on February 9, 1967. Her family remains there, and she makes the four-hour drive from Sarajevo to Banja Luka each weekend.
MCELHANEY